
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4408

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Wallace, Haigh, and Sells)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/08.

1 WHEREAS, Washington State is an economic leader in a globally
2 competitive environment where human capital is becoming the prime
3 currency; and

4 WHEREAS, The legislature wishes to craft a vision for our education
5 system that truly nurtures and develops each person to realize their
6 limitless potential; and

7 WHEREAS, Postsecondary education is the crowning jewel in our
8 state's human capital development plan and it is the legislature's
9 intent to focus on the long-term goal of providing the necessary levels
10 of education to our residents required to catapult Washington into
11 global educational leadership; and

12 WHEREAS, This goal of providing the necessary levels of education
13 will necessitate development of creative and visionary approaches to
14 educational reform that include financing and revenue reform and
15 implementation strategies to overcome the challenges in simultaneously
16 funding all of the state's legitimate needs; and

17 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board is charged under
18 RCW 28B.76.200 with developing a statewide strategic master plan for
19 higher education, encompassing all sectors including the two-year

1 system, workforce training, the four-year institutions of higher
2 education, and financial aid; and

3 WHEREAS, The legislature enacted chapter 458, Laws of 2007,
4 requiring the strategic master plan to present a vision, measurable
5 goals, and priorities spanning a ten-year period of time, with
6 strategies for expanding access, affordability, quality, efficiency,
7 and accountability; and

8 WHEREAS, The legislature supports taking the steps needed to
9 implement this vision of global educational leadership and supports the
10 incremental steps proposed in the strategic master plan to improve our
11 higher education system so as not to fall behind the rest of the world
12 as other countries rush to confront the same challenges; and

13 WHEREAS, The legislature supports the short-term goals and policies
14 embedded in the master plan that would create a higher education system
15 grounded in equality, access, affordability, and accountability as well
16 as promote economic growth and innovation; and

17 WHEREAS, The legislature will continue to look at ways to improve
18 Washington's system of higher education; and

19 WHEREAS, The law provides that the legislature shall by concurrent
20 resolution approve or recommend changes to the plan, following public
21 hearings, after which the board shall incorporate legislative changes
22 and adopt a final plan by June of the year in which the legislature
23 passes the concurrent resolution; and

24 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board, from February
25 through November 2007, conducted regular public meetings of the board
26 and the board's advisory council and in fall 2007 organized public
27 forums and focus group meetings around the state bringing educational,
28 business, and community leaders together to engage stakeholders and the
29 public in developing ideas for the strategic master plan; and

30 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board received input for
31 the plan from a wide range of perspectives through presentations
32 provided by leaders from the legislature, business, public and
33 independent baccalaureate institutions of higher education, community
34 and technical colleges, workforce training agencies, the common school
35 system, and representatives of the governor, students, faculty, and
36 communities of color, economists, and other experts; and

37 WHEREAS, The final report issued by Washington Learns called for a
38 world-class, learner-focused seamless educational system from preschool

1 through higher education and articulated a vision for the improvement
2 of educational attainment at all levels of educational system in the
3 state of Washington, a vision that lies at the heart of the proposed
4 2008 update of the master plan submitted by the higher education
5 coordinating board; and

6 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board finds that while
7 many of the world's developed nations have made huge gains in the
8 educational attainment levels of their populations, the United States
9 has not and Washingtonians aged twenty-five to thirty-four actually are
10 less well-educated than Washingtonians aged forty-five to fifty-four;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Demographic projections indicate the population of
13 Washington will grow thirty-seven percent by the year 2030 while the
14 state's population simultaneously becomes much more diverse; and

15 WHEREAS, Over seventy percent of the workforce of the year 2030 is
16 currently employed, and many will be required to upgrade their skills
17 to keep up with technological and other workplace changes; and

18 WHEREAS, One out of four people aged eighteen to twenty-four does
19 not have a high school diploma and Washington's undereducated working
20 population is equal in size to its next ten high school graduating
21 classes; and

22 WHEREAS, Global competition, process automation, the increased pace
23 of technological change, and the progressively shortened life span of
24 many products has and will continue to result in worker layoffs, and
25 laid-off workers will need to retool their skills in order to be
26 reemployed; and

27 WHEREAS, Our growing economy also depends on a skilled workforce
28 including workers who have completed certificates, associate degrees,
29 and apprenticeship programs; and

30 WHEREAS, Washington must attract annually to the state over thirty-
31 six thousand people who hold at least a bachelor's degree in order to
32 fill the jobs being created by the state's economy, a net in-migration
33 of highly educated workers second among Washington's Global Challenge
34 State peers, behind only California, which attracts about thirty-nine
35 thousand similarly educated people annually; and

36 WHEREAS, Depending on other states and nations to provide
37 educational attainment levels necessary to fill the best jobs being

1 created in Washington may not be a sustainable economic strategy and
2 misses the opportunity to prepare Washington residents for some of the
3 best jobs being created by Washington's economy; and

4 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board recommends
5 creating opportunities for Washington residents and fueling the growth
6 of Washington's economy by increasing annual production of certificates
7 and two-year degrees to an annual total of thirty-six thousand two
8 hundred by 2018 and recommends increasing bachelor's degree production
9 by 2018 to a benchmark level equal to the seventy-fifth percentile of
10 degree production in the Global Challenge States and increasing
11 advanced degree production to a benchmark level equal to the fiftieth
12 percentile of degree production in the Global Challenge States; and

13 WHEREAS, The proposed master plan update recommends raising
14 educational attainment by addressing diversity, raising expectations in
15 the common school system, promoting lifelong learning and improving
16 affordable access, and recommends a series of strategies for promoting
17 economic growth, innovation, and funding for accountability and
18 results;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of
20 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That the following
21 statements of legislative higher education policy intent be adopted:

22 (1) Increase the number and percentage of racial minorities among
23 staff and faculty at postsecondary institutions, as well as the number,
24 percentage, and success rate of underrepresented students engaged in
25 postsecondary education;

26 (2) Provide students in public schools multiple pathways to
27 complete postsecondary education and provide a system of mentoring and
28 advising to assist students in their preparation for continued learning
29 after high school;

30 (3) Invest in teacher preparation (preservice and in-service) to
31 produce early learning providers, K-12 school teachers, and
32 administrators who can effectively engage families and communities to
33 close the achievement gap and raise student proficiency in math,
34 science, and other academic areas;

35 (4) Maintain the state's leadership role in providing need-based
36 financial aid by expanding and streamlining need-based financial aid
37 programs to serve more low and middle-income students;

1 (5) Reduce the barriers to access for higher education by providing
2 an array of student support services including enhanced academic
3 advising; providing clear information on admissions, financial aid, and
4 transfer options; and providing support for high quality childcare;

5 (6) Expand bachelor's and advanced degree programs in science,
6 technology, engineering, mathematics, and health sciences; and mid-
7 level degree programs in the construction trades, health care, early
8 childhood education, and other high-demand occupations;

9 (7) Develop the capacity to respond to the flexible needs of
10 nontraditional students, adult workers, and Washington businesses;

11 (8) Encourage broad collaboration among all the state's
12 institutions of higher learning and invest in university and college-
13 based research and development that improves student learning in order
14 to drive innovation and economic growth, and maximize technology
15 transfer for commercialization;

16 (9) Provide programs, degrees, and certificates that use industry
17 best practices and an outcome-based approach for each academic subject
18 offered including remedial and adult basic education;

19 (10) Improve per-student funding levels consistent with Global
20 Challenge State benchmarks established by chapter 151, Laws of 2007 and
21 develop a new funding methodology that focuses state revenue on
22 results;

23 (11) Maximize the use of full-time faculty employment without
24 hampering the institutions' ability to maintain an adequate level of
25 flexibility and cost-effectiveness;

26 (12) Create and maintain sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective
27 facilities, technology, and programs that provide enhanced access and
28 delivery of postsecondary education throughout the state;

29 (13) Consider program capacity at public, independent, and career
30 schools when determining the public investments that the higher
31 education coordinating board recommends be made by the legislature for
32 new program and facility development to meet the total demand for a
33 skilled and educated workforce;

34 (14) Modify and coordinate Washington's various postsecondary
35 accountability systems to focus on monitoring progress toward achieving
36 the policies adopted by the legislature as part of the strategic master
37 plan for higher education in Washington; and

1 (15) Maximize the use of state funding and review the cost of
2 service delivery including innovative approaches used by other nations,
3 such as a review of time to degree, credit hours required, and other
4 methods to reduce cost while maintaining quality; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the statewide strategic master plan
6 update submitted by the higher education coordinating board on December
7 15, 2007, be approved; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the higher education coordinating
9 board shall actively involve public and independent two-year and four-
10 year institutions of higher education, private vocational schools, the
11 council of presidents, the independent colleges of Washington, the
12 state board for community and technical colleges, the workforce
13 training and education coordinating board, faculty from four-year
14 institutions of higher education and the community and technical
15 colleges, students, representatives of business and other interested
16 stakeholders, the office of financial management, the office of the
17 superintendent of public instruction, teachers and other
18 representatives of the public school system, and appropriate committees
19 of the legislature, in collaboratively refining the strategies and
20 specifying next steps required to implement strategies recommended in
21 the 2008 update of the master plan; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the higher education coordinating
23 board shall report to the higher education committees of the House of
24 Representatives and the Senate on progress implementing the 2008 update
25 of the master plan by February 1, 2009.

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